

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 23, 27, and 28 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the teachings of Nagashima. The Examiner also rejected claim 3 as under 25 USC 103 as unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Amateau. In response to these rejections, Applicants have amended the claims to focus them on specific elements of the teachings of the current application that are not taught by either Nagashima or Amateau. As the claims, as presented in the present amendment have been narrowed to include a combination of deposition techniques and a further process step not taught in the references of record, the present claims are believed to be both novel and non-obvious over the references alone or over any reasonable combination of them.

In view of the amendments and remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and passage to allowance is earnestly solicited. If any questions should arise concerning this application or if it would otherwise be useful to discuss this application, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned by phone so as to expedite prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Dennis R. Smalley/

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